

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:19
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOUR
Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Mahato Shri Bir Sing

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the long pending proposal for enacting a comprehensive Central legislation to protect the interests of unorganised sector including agricultural labour all over the country;
- (b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken for the enactment of such a legislation; and
- (c) the details of the other schemes being implemented for the welfare of unorganised labour alongwith the funds provided to State Governments under these schemes during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to Part (a) to (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.19 for 05.07.2004 by Shri Ajoy Chakraborty; Shri Bir Singh Mahato regarding Comprehensive Legislation for Agricultural Labour.

(a) & (b): A proposal regarding enactment of a Central legislation for the welfare of agricultural labourers had been under consideration of the Government. Due to lack of consensus amongst the State Governments on various components on the draft Bill, the matter could not be processed further. Another proposal regarding comprehensive legislation for unorganised sector workers is also under consideration. The category of workers proposed to be covered, inter - alia, include agricultural workers.

(c) : The Government has initiated several measures for the welfare of the labourers in the unorganised sector. The Government have set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers i.e. beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. The welfare measures include health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. About 40 lakhs beedi workers, 0.31 lakh cine workers and about 0.76 lakh non-coal mine workers and their families are availing benefits under these welfare measures. The details indicating the amount disbursed during the last three years are given in Annexure.

Annexure

Statement referred to in part (c) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 19 for 05.07.2004 regarding Comprehensive Legislation for Agricultural Labour.

(Rs. in Crores)

| Sl. No. | Name of the Fund | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
|---------|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. | Beedi Workers Welfare Fund | 53.31 | 65.82 | 82.14 |
| 2. | Limestone & Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund | 6.18 | 6.22 | 6.50 |
| 3. | Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines & Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund | 8.92 | 7.96 | 9.16 |
| 4. | Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund | 1.43 | 1.25 | 1.16 |
| 5. | Cine Workers Welfare Fund | 0.51 | 0.54 | 0.84 |

Total 70.35 81.79 99.80